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Attorneys for Plaintiff
M&N LUXURY AV, LLC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

M&N LUXURY AV, LLC, a California
limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

v.

BANG & OLUFSEN AMERICA INC.
a Delaware Corporation; BANG &
OLUFSEN A/S, a Danish Company;
B&O PLAY A/S, a Danish Company;
BANG & OLUFSEN OPERATIONS
A/S, a Danish Company; and DOES 1-
25,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-02230-DSF-KES

*[Discovery Document: Referred to
Magistrate Judge Karen E. Scott]*

**[PROPOSED] STIPULATED
ORDER RE: DISCOVERY OF
ELECTRONICALLY STORED
INFORMATION**

Judge: Hon. Dale S. Fischer

Magistrate Judge: Hon. Karen E. Scott

Complaint Filed: March 5, 2024

Discovery Cut-Off: June 30, 2025

Las Day for Motion

Hearings: January 26, 2026

Pre-Trial Conference

Date: April 6, 2026

Trial Date: May 5, 2025

1 The undersigned Parties to the above-captioned case (the “Litigation”),
2 through their respective counsel, agree that the terms and conditions of this Protocol
3 for Conducting Electronic Discovery (“ESI Protocol”) shall govern the search for,
4 disclosure of, and format of electronically stored information (“ESI”) and
5 Documents.

6 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

7 **1. PURPOSE**

8 This Order will govern discovery of electronically stored information
9 (“ESI”) in this case as a supplement to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this
10 Court’s Guidelines for the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information, and
11 any other applicable orders and rules.

12 **2. COOPERATION**

13 The parties are aware of the importance the Court places on cooperation
14 and commit to cooperate in good faith throughout the matter consistent with this
15 Court’s Guidelines for the Discovery of ESI. The Parties shall conduct discovery
16 in a cooperative manner, including without limitation, by meeting and conferring
17 in good faith on any preservation, collection, review, and production issues that
18 arise during the course of discovery.

19 **3. LIAISON**

20 The parties have identified liaisons to each other who are and will be
21 knowledgeable about and responsible for discussing their respective ESI. Each
22 e-discovery liaison will be, or have access to those who are, knowledgeable about
23 the technical aspects of e-discovery, including the location, nature, accessibility,
24 format, collection, search methodologies, and production of ESI in this matter.
25 The parties will rely on the liaisons, as needed, to confer about ESI and to help
26 resolve disputes without court intervention.

1 **4. SOURCES OF DISCOVERABLE INFORMATION**

2 The parties acknowledge that they have a common law obligation, as
3 expressed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(e), to take reasonable and proportional steps to
4 preserve discoverable information in the party's possession, custody, or control.
5 Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the parties shall not be
6 required to modify the procedures used by them in the ordinary course of
7 business to back-up and archive data; provided, however, that the parties shall
8 preserve all discoverable ESI in their possession, custody, or control.

9 In order to facilitate discussions on the potential application of search
10 terms, technology assisted review ("TAR"), or other search and culling
11 technologies, the producing Party shall provide in writing a list of custodians
12 and/or data sources within that Party's control likely to contain or possess
13 responsive documents. The Parties shall also meet and confer if any Party
14 reasonably believes that there are additional custodians or data sources likely to
15 contain or possess unique, responsive information that should be subject to
16 discovery in this matter.

17 If, upon investigation, a Party determines that a custodial or non-custodial
18 data source is not reasonably accessible under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(B), the
19 party shall identify why it considers the information not reasonably accessible. If
20 the requesting party intends to seek discovery on these data sources, the Parties
21 shall meet and confer and, if necessary, seek resolution by the Court.

22 Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the following
23 categories of ESI need not be preserved:

- 24 a. Deleted, slack, fragmented, or other data only accessible by
25 forensics.
26 b. Random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral
27 data that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating
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1 system.

2 c. On-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache,
3 cookies, and the like.

4 d. Back-up data that are duplicative of data that are more accessible
5 elsewhere.

6 e. Server, system or network logs.

7 f. Data remaining from systems no longer in use that is unintelligible
8 on the systems in use.

9 g. Data stored on photocopiers, scanners, and fax machines.

10 h. Electronic data (e.g., email, calendars, contact data, and notes) sent
11 to or from mobile devices (e.g., iPhone, iPad, Android devices), provided the
12 data is available from another source and is not unique to that mobile device.

13 **5. SEARCH**

14 To the extent a party elects to use search terms as a means of limiting the
15 volume of information to be reviewed for responsiveness, prior to conducting any
16 such searches, that party shall disclose the following to requesting party:

- 17 • A list of the custodians and custodial and/or non-custodial data
18 sources against which the search terms will be applied; and
- 19 • An initial list of the search terms the party plans to use.

20 After receipt of the proposed search terms, the Parties shall meet and confer
21 to attempt to reach agreement on the search terms.

22 That a document is captured by a search term does not mean such document
23 is necessarily responsive to any propounded discovery request or is otherwise
24 relevant to this litigation or any required disclosure. Likewise, the use of search
25 terms will not preclude the parties' use of other reasonable techniques to further
26 identify relevant or irrelevant documents, including, but not limited to, analytics,
27 predictive coding, and other technology assisted review.

1 To the extent a Party intends to apply TAR to exclude potentially responsive
2 documents from human review, that Party shall meet and confer in advance,
3 regardless of when the Party intends to apply TAR. That meet and confer shall
4 include a discussion of the document population to which the Producing Party
5 intends to apply TAR and the appropriateness of applying TAR to that population.
6 To the extent the Parties cannot reach agreement on the application of, or
7 procedures for, any TAR process used to exclude potentially responsive documents
8 from human review, the Parties may raise such issues for resolution by the Court or
9 its designee.

10 **6. ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTS**

11 **a. Deduplication**

12 The Parties shall de-duplicate exact copies on a family level (e.g., an email
13 and all attachments) based on hash values (e.g., MD5, SHA1, etc.). Documents
14 will be de-duplicated using MD5 or SHA1 hash values, or an agreed upon de-
15 duplication method that accounts for all potentially relevant metadata fields,
16 including BCC. For each document family produced, the names of other custodians
17 who possessed that document family shall be indicated in the “AllCustodians”
18 metadata field, and the file paths associated with the de-duplicated document shall
19 be indicated in the “All_Paths” metadata fields, in accord with Appendix A. For
20 hard copy documents, if there are any handwritten notes, or any other markings or
21 additions, on a document including but not limited to electronic notes/tabs, edits,
22 highlighting or redlining, it shall not be considered a duplicate of the underlying
23 document. If such markings/alterations are made in color, the document must be
24 produced in color.

25 **b. Email threading**

26 The parties may use analytics technology to identify email threads and need
27 only produce the unique most inclusive copy of each email thread and its related
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1 family members. The parties must maintain all parent-child relationships, i.e., if a
2 lesser inclusive email has attachments not attached to the more inclusive email, the
3 lesser inclusive email and attachments must be produced in their entirety. The
4 parties may choose to exclude otherwise lesser inclusive copies from production.
5 Upon reasonable request, the producing party will produce any less inclusive
6 copies excluded from production.

7 ***Password protected or encrypted files.*** With respect to any password-
8 protected or encrypted documents that are encountered during processing, the
9 Producing Party will take reasonable and proportional steps to resolve the
10 protection so that the documents can be reviewed and produced if appropriate.

11 **7. PRODUCTION FORMATS**

12 **a. Electronically Stored Information**

13 **i. TIFF file productions**

14 The Parties shall produce all documents that are deemed responsive and
15 not privileged in 300 DPI Group IV black and white Tagged Image File Format
16 (.TIFF or .TIF) files. The TIFF files shall be produced in single-page format
17 along with image load files (.OPT file and .LFP file). Upon written request, the
18 producing Party shall produce color images, if available, for a reasonable number
19 of selected documents. In certain circumstances, variations to the production
20 format specified in this Order may be necessary. In such circumstances, the
21 Parties will meet and confer regarding the production format. Any document that
22 is not reviewable, but is otherwise part of a produced document family, shall be
23 represented in the production with a placeholder TIFF image that bears the
24 legend "Technical Issue," along with its corresponding metadata in the
25 Concordance DAT file. To the extent the technical issue is not apparent (e.g., file
26 extension is .EXE), the Parties will meet and confer.

1 **ii. Text files**

2 The full text of each electronic document shall be extracted from the native
3 file (“Extracted Text”) and produced with each text file corresponding to a single
4 document in the production. The Extracted Text shall be in ASCII text format (or
5 Unicode text format if the text is in a foreign language) and named with a unique
6 Bates Number (*i.e.* the unique Bates Number of the first page of the document
7 followed by .txt).

8 **iii. Database load files**

9 All ESI should be produced with an ASCII delimited data file (.dat)
10 that contains the metadata fields listed in Appendix A, attached hereto, that can
11 be loaded into a commercially acceptable electronic discovery platform (e.g.
12 Relativity). The first line of each delimited data file must contain a header
13 identifying each data field name (*i.e.*, header row). To the extent metadata does
14 not exist, is not reasonably accessible or available for any documents produced,
15 or would be unduly burdensome to provide, nothing in this Order shall require
16 any party to extract, capture, collect, or produce such data.

17 **iv. Cross-reference image file registration**

18 All ESI should be produced with an image load file (.opt) linking each
19 page in the production to a single document record. Each TIFF in a production
20 must be referenced in the corresponding image load file.

21 **v. Native file productions**

22 Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, files that are not easily converted
23 to image format, such as spreadsheet, presentation, audio and video, database,
24 and drawing files, will be produced in native format. The parties may elect to
25 utilize native redaction software tools such as “Blackout” to apply redactions
26 directly to a native spreadsheet and produce a redacted native file instead of a
27 TIFF image of a spreadsheet. If a document is produced in native format, a
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1 single-page Bates-stamped TIFF image slip-sheet containing the confidential
2 designation and text stating the document has been produced in native format
3 should also be provided. Each native file should be named for its Bates number
4 with its original file extension, and should be linked directly to its corresponding
5 record in the load file using the NativeFileLink field.

6 **b. Hard copy documents**

7 The producing party may produce documents as black-and-white images
8 unless color is necessary to understand the meaning, content, or context of the
9 document. If a document contains color-coded information, highlights,
10 annotations, or other elements where color is material to its interpretation, it shall
11 be produced in color. Any receiving party may request that a document originally
12 produced in black and white be re-produced in color upon a showing that the
13 color version is necessary for review or evidentiary purposes. All documents are
14 to be provided with per document searchable text (.TXT) files that contain full
15 text extraction. In the event a document is scanned into TIFF format, the text file
16 should contain that document's OCR text. The producing party shall use Optical
17 Character Recognition (OCR) software settings that prioritize text recognition
18 accuracy over processing speed. OCR shall be performed using settings that
19 maximize text quality and the producing party shall take reasonable steps to
20 enhance OCR accuracy, including but not limited to adjusting settings for
21 complex documents.

22 All image files and text files shall be named the same as the starting Bates
23 number for each document. Each TIFF image shall be endorsed with Bates
24 numbers that increment by one for each page. The documents should be logically
25 unitized (i.e., distinct documents should not be merged into a single record and a
26 single document should not be split into multiple records) and should be
27 produced in the order in which they are kept in the usual course of business. The
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1 text and image load files should indicate page breaks.

2 Documents produced in color shall be produced as single page, 300 DPI,
3 color JPG images with the quality setting 75% or higher. The requesting Party
4 may also request, in writing, that the producing Party produce color images for a
5 reasonable number of selected documents that were originally produced in black
6 and white. Each such color document image file shall be named with the unique
7 Bates number of the first page of the document in question followed by the file
8 extension JPG or PDF. This includes, but is not limited to, color on graphs,
9 charts, presentations, edits, or highlights that were made by hand, or
10 electronically, on the original.

11 **c. Redactions**

12 The parties agree that documents redacted for privilege or other good
13 reason will be produced without native files, full text and/or OCR, and certain
14 metadata values including but not limited to SUBJECT, PATH AND
15 FILENAME. The PRODUCTION HAS REDACTIONS field in the production
16 load file field should be populated to indicate the document contains a redaction.

17 **d. Mobile data**

18 Mobile data, such as text messages or app-based messages, should be
19 produced with all metadata in accordance with Appendix A, preserving the
20 original context or conversation in which the text or app-based message
21 appeared, and otherwise in accordance with the requirements of this Order.

22 **e. Other documents or data**

23 Before any party produces certain structured or other electronic data that is
24 not easily converted to static TIFF images, such as databases, CAD drawings,
25 GIS data, videos, websites, social media, etc., the parties will meet and confer to
26 discuss the appropriate format for the production.

1 **f. Families**

2 Parent-child relationships (i.e., the association between emails and their
3 attachments) will be maintained in the collection and production process to the
4 extent practicable. Attachments will be consecutively produced with the parent
5 email record. If an attachment is privileged, not responsive, or has a technical
6 issue, a slip sheet may be inserted in the production.

7 **g. Bates numbering**

8 Each page of a document produced in image format by a Defendant will
9 have a legible, unique page identifier (“Bates Number”) electronically “burned”
10 onto the image at a location that does not obliterate, conceal, or interfere with any
11 information from the source document. Each file produced in native format will
12 be named according to the next consecutive Bates number. The Bates number
13 will be consistent across the production, contain no special characters other than
14 a hyphen or underscore, identify the producing Party, and be numerically
15 sequential within a given document. Attachments to documents will be assigned
16 Bates numbers that directly follow the Bates numbers on the documents to which
17 they were attached.

18 **h. Hyperlinked documents**

19 Documents containing internal hyperlinks pointing to documents on a
20 system within a producing party’s custody, possession, or control (such as an
21 internal document management system, Google Drive, Google Docs, SharePoint,
22 Office365, or similar document hosting and collaboration service) are not
23 considered within the same family group as the document residing at the location
24 to which that hyperlink points. If there are responsive documents containing
25 hyperlinks where the document to which that hyperlink points cannot be located
26 in the production, the receiving party may request that the Producing Party will
27 engage in reasonable efforts to locate the documents as originally linked at that
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1 pointed location and either identify it by Bates number or provide it if not already
2 produced and not privileged.

3 **i. Metadata to be produced**

4 All materials shall be produced with the metadata specified in Exhibit A.
5 The list of fields in Exhibit A does not create any obligation to create or manually
6 code fields that are not automatically generated by the processing of documents,
7 that do not exist as part of the original metadata of the document, or would be
8 unduly burdensome or costly to obtain. To the extent that objective metadata (e.g.,
9 dates, titles, authors) is coded at the time hardcopy documents are processed, that
10 objective metadata shall be produced with the hardcopy document. Where a
11 producing Party produces more than one production volume, whether in a single
12 delivery or on a rolling basis over time, that producing Party shall provide periodic
13 overlays on a reasonable cadence to update the metadata fields “AllCustodians”
14 and “All_Paths” to account for records in later volumes. If there is a dispute as to
15 the frequency of such overlays, the Parties shall meet and confer to arrive at an
16 agreed resolution.

17 **j. Production media**

18 The producing Party may produce documents via a secure file transfer
19 mechanism or on readily accessible, computer or electronic media. Each piece of
20 production media will be assigned a production number, volume name or other
21 unique identifying label corresponding to the date of the production as well as the
22 sequence of the material in that production.

23 **k. Encryption**

24 To maximize the security of information in transit, any media on which
25 documents are produced may be encrypted by the producing Party. In such cases,
26 the producing Party shall transmit the encryption key or password to the
27 requesting Party, under separate cover, contemporaneously with sending the
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1 encrypted media.

2 **8. KNOWN RESPONSIVE MATERIAL MUST BE PRODUCED**

3 Documents that are known to the Parties or the Parties' Counsel to be non-
4 privileged and responsive to a discovery request in this matter, and not otherwise
5 subject to a Rule 34 objection by the Producing Party or excluded by virtue of a
6 Court order limiting discovery, shall not be intentionally withheld from
7 production because they were not indicated for inclusion in the review population
8 by a search term or another search technique, except that privileged documents in
9 such a collection may be withheld and listed in a privilege log. These provisions
10 do not affect the Parties' respective obligations with respect to supplementation
11 under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(g).

12 **9. NON-PARTY PRODUCTIONS**

13 The Parties may provide a copy of this Order to each recipient of a Rule 45
14 Subpoena seeking the production of documents in this matter and request that the
15 non-party agree to follow the various provisions as to format set forth in this
16 section. Non-parties may elect to follow these provisions, or may otherwise meet
17 and confer with the requesting Party as to the format of any document
18 productions.

19 **10. PHASING**

20 When a party propounds discovery requests pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 34,
21 the parties agree to meet and confer and to agree as necessary on phasing the
22 production of ESI.

23 **11. DOCUMENTS PROTECTED FROM DISCOVERY**

24 Pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of a privileged or work-
25 product-protected document, whether inadvertent or otherwise, is not a waiver of
26 privilege or protection from discovery in this case or in any other federal or state
27 proceeding. For example, the mere production of privileged or work-product-
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1 protected documents in this case as part of a mass production is not itself a
2 waiver in this case or in any other federal or state proceeding.

3 The producing party may seek the return and/or destruction of any
4 document produced in response to discovery requests in this action that the party
5 later claims should have been withheld on grounds of a privilege (“Protected
6 Information”). A party may request the return of such a document by promptly
7 notifying the receiving party, identifying the document by Bates number, and
8 stating the basis for withholding such document from production. The receiving
9 party must promptly return, sequester or destroy (or in the case of ESI, delete) the
10 Protected Information and any reasonably accessible copies it has and provide a
11 certification that it will cease further review, dissemination, and use of the
12 Protected Information. Notwithstanding the forgoing, the receiving party may
13 contest the privilege claim by seeking an Order compelling disclosure of the
14 information claimed as unprotected (a “Disclosure Motion”). The Disclosure
15 Motion must be filed under seal and must not assert as a ground for compelling
16 disclosure the fact or circumstances of the disclosure. Pending resolution of the
17 Disclosure Motion, the receiving party must not use the challenged information
18 in any way or disclose it to any person other than those required by law to be
19 served with a copy of the sealed Disclosure Motion.

20 **12. PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS AND PRIVILEGE LOGS**

21 The Parties will prepare privilege logs and will work cooperatively to
22 reach agreement on the form, format and content of the privilege logs prior to
23 exchange of those logs.

24 **13. FOREIGN LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS**

25 To the extent that responsive Documents or ESI are produced that contain
26 languages other than English, in whole or in part, the Producing Party shall produce
27 all foreign language Documents and ESI in the original language. The Producing
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1 Party has no obligation to create a translation of the foreign language Documents
2 or ESI or any portion thereof. The cost of translation will be borne by the
3 Requesting Party.

4 **14. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

5 The Parties will attempt to resolve disputes regarding the issues set forth
6 herein prior to filing a motion with the Court or otherwise seeking relief. If the
7 Parties are unable to resolve the dispute after a good faith effort, the Parties may
8 seek Court intervention in accordance with the Court's procedures.

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1 **15. MODIFICATION**

2 This Stipulated Order may be modified by a Stipulated Order of the parties
3 or by the Court for good cause shown.

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5 **IT IS SO STIPULATED**, through Counsel of Record.

6
7 Dated: March 31, 2025

K&L GATES LLP

8
9 By: /s/ Christopher S. Finnerty
10 J. David Bournazian
Christopher S. Finnerty (pro hac)

11 Attorneys for Defendant
12 Bang & Olufsen America Inc.

13 DATED: April 1, 2025

DLA PIPER LLP

14
15 By: /s/ Jeffrey Tsai
16 JEFFREY TSAI
17 COLIN MCGRATH
SAM BODLE

18 Attorneys for Plaintiff
19 M&N LUXURY AV, LLC

20
21 **IT IS ORDERED** that the forgoing Agreement is approved.

22
23 Dated: April 1, 2025

24 
Honorable Karen E. Scott
25 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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